



GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1943.

G R E A T H A R W O O D

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

A N D

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

F O R T H E Y E A R

1 9 4 3

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Chairman - Mrs. Councillor G. M. Boardman, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part Time)

J. K. Cumming, M.B., -Ch.B.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

(also a qualified Meat Inspector)

A. Smithson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR

(Lancashire County Council)

Nurse S. Gray.

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the health and sanitary administration of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1943.

The various rates in the report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1943, which is not shown on account of security purposes in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 2604.

The birth rate of 14.7 per 1000 population shows an increase of 2.2 on 1942, as compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

172 deaths have been recorded giving a death rate of 16.6 per 1000 population as against 13.0 for last year. The death rate for England and Wales being 12.1

The Infantile Mortality rate was higher than last year being 53 per 1000 live births. This is an increase of 31 over last year, when the figure was 22 per 1000 live births. The figure for England and Wales was 49.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system is higher than last year, being 0.4 as against 0.2.

Deaths from Cancer gave a rate of 2.1 which was similar to last year.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy during the year, except the influenza epidemic during the last quarter, otherwise the general health of the district, despite four years of war-time conditions, remains satisfactory.

Immunisation against diphtheria has continued satisfactorily throughout the year. Of the three cases of diphtheria notified none had previously been immunised.

The essential work of the Health Department has been fully maintained despite the war.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials for their valuable assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

J. K. Cumming.

26th June, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A T I S T I C S.

Area in acres		2,868
Number of inhabited houses	(a) Census, 1931	3,573
	(b) End of 1943.	3,680
Rateable Value		£62,235
Sum represented by a penny rate		£240

BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births { Legitimate	148	76	72
{ Illegitimate	4	1	3
	<u>152</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>75</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	-	14.7	
Still Births { Legitimate	10	7	3
{ Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births		62	

DEATHS

	Total	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	2	2
Influenza	10	4	6
Acute infectious encephalitis	1	0	1
Cancer, all forms	22	14	8
Diabetes	1	1	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	5	9
Heart disease	47	22	25
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	6	1
Bronchitis	7	5	2
Pneumonia	1	1	0
Other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0	1
Digestive diseases	8	3	5
Nephritis	2	1	1
Premature Births	4	2	2
Congenital debility and malformation etc.	3	2	1
Suicide	2	1	1
Road traffic accidents	2	2	0
Other Violent causes	6	3	3
All other causes	29	12	17
	<u>172</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.6

Deaths from puerperal causes	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 live & still births.
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	53
(Death rate for England and Wales 49)	
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	47
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	250

Deaths from Cancer	(all ages)	22
" " Measles	(all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough	(all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea	(under 2 years of age)	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, with the exception of sputum examinations for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases - Provided by Isolation Hospital.
- (b) For non-infectious cases - Owned by the Council.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the Home is carried out by the District Nursing Association.

Midwives

The Midwives Act, 1936 is administered by the Lancashire County Council, who employ two midwives in the district.

Hospital Accommodation.

General

There are no Public or Voluntary hospitals in the district.

The majority of cases are treated at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

Smallpox

Finnington Hospital, Blackburn.

Other Infectious Diseases

Queen's Park Fever Hospital, Blackburn.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, Antenatal, School, Orthopaedic and Artificial Light Clinics are all under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Water Supply

Water is supplied to all premises within a reasonable distance of the water mains by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board.

Samples are regularly taken by the Board for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The quality and quantity of the water has been well maintained during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council, Rivers Board. One case of pollution was found, namely from an overflowing cesspool - This was receiving attention at the close of the year.

Shops and Offices.

No action was taken under the shops act, 1934 or the Public Health Act, 1936.

Schools

It has not been necessary to close any school on account of the occurrence of infectious disease.

Offensive Trades.

There is one Rag and Bone Dealer in the district. It is situated well away from the built-up area and no complaints have been received.

Swimming Baths.

The district does not possess any public or privately owned swimming baths.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions still remain fairly satisfactory despite the difficulty of labour and materials. Several houses have been rendered fit during the year.

Although there is very little overcrowding, as defined in the Housing Act, 1936, there are several cases where sex separation is unsatisfactory due to the present shortage of houses.

SCABIES.

Eight cases of Scabies were admitted to Waddow Hall, Clitheroe for treatment.

With the approval of the County Council, arrangements were made for the treatment of Scabies by the personnel at the First Aid Post.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

222 Children were immunised during the year, of these 131 were between 1 and 5 years and 91 between 5 and 15 years.

The number of children immunised since the commencement of the scheme in 1941 is:-

Under 5 years	505	approx. 80%
Between 5 and 15 years	996	" 75%

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

(Other than Tuberculosis)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													TOTAL DEATHS.	HOSPITAL		
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years													Total cases removed to hospital.	Deaths in hospital.	
		Under 1.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65 & over					
Whooping Cough	59	9	10	10	9	7	13				1						
Acute Pneumonia	12	3		2				1	1	3		1		1		1	
Measles	22	1	6	5	3	1	3	2	1								
Scarlet Fever	12			1	1	1	7		2								
Erysipelas	2											1	1				
Diphtheria	3						2		1								
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1							
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1															
	112	14	16	18	13	9	25	3	5	5	1	2	1		1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respir'y		Non-Respir'y		Respir'y		Non-Respir'y	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5			1	1				
5 - 10								
10 - 15								
15 - 20				1				
20 - 25								
25 - 35	1	2			1	1		
35 - 45	2							
45 - 55	1				1			
55 - 65	1	1				1		
65 & over		1						
Total	5	4	1	2	2	2	0	0

Death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System being .4 per thousand population.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The notification of this disease is satisfactory.

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December was:-

Pulmonary	M.	14		
	F.	8	22	
Non-Pulmonary	M.	17		
	F.	6	23	45

Report of the Sanitary Inspector
To the Medical Officer of Health
For the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the District during the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Classified List of Inspections and Visits.

Dwelling houses, under the Housing and Public Health Acts; including re-visits.	366
Fair Vans	8
Milk Supply:-	
Cowsheds and Dairies	72
Milk Samples	21
Food Supply:-	
Slaughterhouses	72
Butchers' Shops	2
Food Premises	28
Fish Friers	16
Bakehouses	31
Market	38
Factories	51
Piggeries	2
Shops	1
Infectious Diseases	62
Schools	4
Scabies	10
Refuse Tip	58
Salvage	94
Rats and Mice	74
Verminous Premises	12
Closet conversions	53
Pail closets	7
Public Conveniences	16
Defective Cesspools	5
Public Air Raid Shelters	15
Various	23
Interviews with Owners and Contractors	46
Drains examined and tested	62

Disinfections

Rooms	22
Books	18
Bedding (steam disinfected)	2 lots
Choked drains and closets released	816
Complaints	89

Sanitary Inspections

Number of premises visited	296
" inspections and revisits	366
" defects or nuisances discovered	293
" " " abated	272
" notices served - Informal	293
" " " - Statutory	3
" legal proceedings	NIL

MILK SUPPLY

Number of dairy farms	19
Number of dairymen	6
Approximate number of cows	400
Number of inspections	72

Regular inspections of the cowsheds and dairies have been made. The general standard of the buildings, with few exceptions, are satisfactory.

There are three licenced producers of "Accredited" milk under the milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

Thirteen samples of ungraded milk were taken for the presence of tuberculosis and fourteen for the Methylene Blue Test:- one sample was found to contain tubercle bacilli and two samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test. In the case of the latter two unsatisfactory samples, the premises and equipment were inspected and the farmers interviewed and suggestions made, afterwards further samples were obtained which proved satisfactory.

In addition, 7 samples of milk, as supplied to the schools, were taken on behalf of the County Council for the presence of the tubercle bacilli - one of which, obtained from an outside source, was found to be positive.

Eighteen samples were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector under the Food & Drugs Act for adulteration, all of which were found to be genuine.

With the introduction of the Government's White Paper (Cmd. 6454) "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nations Milk Supply", some of the producer-retailers are seriously considering the question of carrying out the necessary alterations to their buildings in order to bring them up to the "Accredited" standards.

Meat and Other Foods

All meat received in the district is still obtained from the Ministry of Food's Regional Slaughterhouse.

Seventy-two visits were made to the private slaughterhouse (attached to the Bacon & Ham Factory), when 1615 pigs were examined, of which, the following were found to be unsound:-

2 Carcases	213 lbs.
Pig heads	64
" lungs	189
" livers	40
" hearts	67

Other food premises were inspected from time to time and the following tinned and loose foods were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

	CWT.	QRS.	LBS.	OZ.
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	2	12	12
Corned Beef		3	1	8
Chopped Ham			19	4
Ham			13	12
Salmon			2	0
Pilchards			2	0
Sardines				13
Marmalade		1	2	0
Prunes		2	17	0
Pears			2	8
Plums			15	0
Sultanas		1	11	0
Peas			4	0
Condensed Milk		1	20	0
Beans			1	0
Soups			3	0
	4	2	15	9

Factories.

Fifty-one inspections were made during the year.

The following defects etc., were found:-

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Defective fittings etc.	15
Want of Cleanliness	3
Absence of indication notices	8

In addition, four fresh water closets and one urinal have been provided, whilst fifteen trough-type conveniences have been converted to the individual flush-type fresh water closets.

Bakehouses

There are 33 bakehouses (including one basement bakehouse) in the district; 31 inspections were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 33 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

The pail closets are emptied weekly by the department.

The number of the various closets in the district is as follows:-

Fresh water closets	1158
Waste " "	2496
Pail closets	39

Public Lavatories

There are four public lavatories which are cleansed daily.

Public Cleansing

As in previous years, household and shop refuse have regularly been collected - in the case of dustbins, weekly and ash-pits approximately monthly.

Collection is by means of two covered 'Dennis' refuse vehicles and disposal entirely by controlled tipping which is an economical method of disposal.

Forty-nine ash-pits were abolished and dustbins provided in lieu thereof, whilst 152 defective dustbins and other unsuitable receptacles were replaced.

Approximate number of dustbins	2908
" " " ash-pits	620

Street Cleansing

The department is responsible for the cleansing of the main roads and streets. Main roads and streets are swept daily and side streets weekly.

Street gullies are emptied regularly to avoid nuisances being created from their overflowing.

Salvage.

The recovery and profitable disposal of salvage has continued and very many thanks are due to all the householders, business people, schoolchildren and all those who have and are still rendering such valuable service and help in this important work of National Importance.

Details of Salvage Collected and Sold during 1943.

	TONS	CWTS	QRS	LBS	DOZ	BINS	£	s	d
Waste paper, books and cardboard.	77	6	2	13			499	8	0
Rags.	3	10	0	19			52	12	4
Carpets		16	2	6			3	14	5
Sacking		9	3	13			3	2	1
String		7	2	24			3	9	3
Scrap Iron	12	16	2	0			25	10	5
Uncrushed Tins	34	8	1	0			17	4	2
Aluminium		2	1	15			5	12	4
Brass		5	0	14			5	19	7
Copper		1	1	8			2	6	3
Lead & Zinc		4	2	4			3	14	1
Pewter				12				18	0
Rubber	2	12	1	0			7	3	8
Bones	1	15	1	0			8	7	11
Glass, Bottles and Jars.	7	19	2	0	1626½		39	10	7
Kitchen Waste.	68	7	0	0		2580¼	63	16	0
	211	3	0	16	1626½	2580¼	742	9	1
Subsidy received from the British Iron & Steel Corporation (Scrap) Ltd. in respect to household tins etc.							34	16	9
Books sent to H. M. Forces re-stock blitzed Libraries etc.	11,546 708								
	3	1	1	0					
	12,254	214	4	1	16	1626½	2580¼	777	5 10

Pestology

Eradication of bed-bugs

Three houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs and remedial treatment was carried out under the supervision of the department.

Rats and Mice

Immediate attention was given to complaints of alleged rat infested premises.

A survey was commenced, under The Infestation Order, 1943 of all lands which are subject to infestation by rats and mice.

In conclusion, I desire to thank you for the help you have given me during the year, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Heads of other departments, and the members of my staff for their helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Sir,

A. Smithson.

12th June, 1944.

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

